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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Duration and venue of the session

1. The fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 3 to 28 August 1998. The first meeting will be convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 3 August 1998.

Provisional agenda

2. The provisional agenda,* prepared in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, is reproduced below.

Inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups

3. In accordance with previous decisions, the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission will be preceded by meetings of four working groups as follows:

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* Based on the draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission as contained in the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, paras. 334-336).

** Reissued for technical reasons.

GE.98-12806 (E)

(a) Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. In accordance with the arrangements endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1993/27 of 5 March 1993, this Working Group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for eight working days prior to the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission, from 18 to 28 May 1998;

(b) Working Group on Minorities, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/31 of 25 July 1995. This Working Group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for five working days, from 25 to 29 May 1998;

(c) Working Group on Communications, established pursuant to paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970. This Working Group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for two weeks prior to the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission, from 20 to 31 July 1998;

(d) Working Group on Indigenous Populations, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982. This Working Group of five members of the Sub-Commission will meet for one week prior to the fiftieth session of the Sub-Commission, from 27 to 31 July 1998.

In-session working groups

4. Since its thirty-fourth session in 1981, the Sub-Commission has established a sessional working group to assist it in relation to its annual review of developments concerning the human rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment. At its forty-sixth session in 1994, the Sub-Commission established a sessional working group on the administration of justice and the question of compensation in place of a sessional working group on detention.

5. The Sub-Commission may wish to consider establishing such a sessional working group at its fiftieth session.

6. The annotations to the items listed in the provisional agenda will be issued as an addendum to the present document.

Provisional agenda

1. Organization of work:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda;

   (c) Methods of work of the Sub-Commission.

2. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories: report of the Sub-Commission under Commission on Human Rights resolution 8 (XXIII).

3. Comprehensive examination of thematic issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination:

   (a) Situation of migrant workers and members of their families;

   (b) Xenophobia.

4. The realization of economic, social and cultural rights:

   (a) The international economic order and the promotion of human rights;

   (b) The realization of the right to development;

   (c) The question of transnational corporations;

   (d) The realization of the right to education, including education in human rights.

5. The implementation of the human rights of women:

   (a) Traditional practices affecting the health of women and the girl child;

   (b) The role and equal participation of women in development.

6. Contemporary forms of slavery.

7. Human rights of indigenous peoples:

   (a) Indigenous peoples and their relationship to land.

8. Prevention of discrimination against and the protection of minorities.

9. The administration of justice and human rights:

   (a) Question of human rights and states of emergency;

(b) Application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles;

(c) Gross and massive violations of human rights as an international crime;

(d) Juvenile justice;

(e) Privatization of prisons;

(f) Individualization of prosecution and penalties, and repercussions of violations of human rights on families.

10. Freedom of movement:

(a) The right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's own country, and the right to seek asylum from persecution;

(b) Human rights and population displacements.

11. Situation regarding the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth.

12. Review of further developments in fields with which the Sub-Commission has been or may be concerned:

(a) The fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) Review of developments concerning recommendations and decisions relating, inter alia, to:

(i) Promotion, protection and restoration of human rights at national, regional and international levels;

(ii) Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

(iii) Encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments;

(iv) Human rights and scientific and technological developments;

(c) Review of issues not previously the subject of studies but which the Sub-Commission had decided to examine:

(i) Implications of humanitarian activities for the enjoyment of human rights;

(ii) Terrorism and human rights;

(iii) International peace and security as an essential condition for the enjoyment of human rights, above all the right to life;

(d) Human rights and disability;

(e) Other new developments:

(i) Adverse consequences of the transfer of arms and illicit trafficking in arms on the enjoyment of human rights;

(ii) Arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

13. Communications concerning human rights: report of the Working Group on Communications established under Sub-Commission resolution 2 (XXIV) in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

14. Concluding items:

(a) Consideration of the future work of the Sub-Commission;

(b) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission;

(c) Adoption of the report on the fiftieth session.